

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 7 is self-evident. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was objected to as reciting the word “pints” instead of “points.” Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-7 were indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding the objection to Claim 1 for reciting “pints” instead of “points,” Claim 1 is amended to replace “pints” with “points.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 1 is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-7 as indefinite, Claim 1 is amended to delete “the bonding surfaces of the abradable portion end of the fan casing” noted in the outstanding Office Action as an incomplete statement. Claim 1 is amended to replace “the worn abradable portion” in line 15 with “a worn abradable portion.” The language suggested in the outstanding Office Action regarding a new abradable portion has been incorporated into amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the issues regarding the rejection of Claims 1-7 as indefinite has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-7 as indefinite is overcome.

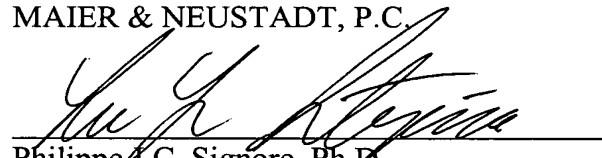
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/709,211
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2007

Should Examiner Jimenez deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Lee L. Stepina
Registration No. 56,837

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

I:\ATTY\LS\28s\285606US\285606US-AM-DUE-5-4-07.DOC